REMARKS

This Amendment amends claim 1 and provides a proposed drawing correction to Fig. 1. Support for the amendments to claim 1 is found in the application as originally filed. Claims 1-7 remain in this application.

In the Drawings

The Examiner objected to Fig. 1 in that reference numeral "53" was used twice. This is simply a typographical error and Applicant submits herewith a copy of Fig. 1 showing a proposed drawing correction in red ink to correct one of the reference numerals "53" to "52" as set forth in the specification at, for example, page 5, line 26. Approval of the proposed drawing correction and reconsideration of the objection to Fig. 1 are respectfully requested.

Informality Objections

Claim 1 stands rejected for use of the phrase "can be" and also for the term "the reticle" lacking antecedent basis. As set forth above, Applicant has amended claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner to overcome these objections. Therefore, reconsideration of the informality objections to claims 1-7 is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7 stand rejected for obviousness over the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 5,071,242 to Yanagisawa in view of the teachings of WO 88/02125 (hereinafter "WO '125") and U.S. Patent No. 4,671,165 to Heidmann et al. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a pair of range binoculars comprising a first observation optical system comprising a first optical member for forming an erecting image, a first objective optical system that together with the first optical member determines a first objective optical axis, and a first ocular optical system that determines together with the first optical member a first ocular optical axis. A second observation optical system comprises a second optical member for forming an erecting image, the second member being placed parallel with the first optical member. A second objective optical system determines

together with the second optical member a second objective optical axis. A second ocular optical system determines together with the second optical member a second ocular optical axis. The binoculars further comprise a main case accommodating the first observation optical system and the second objective optical system. An attached case accommodates the second ocular optical system and the second optical member. The attached case is placed on the main case so that the attached case turns round the second objective optical axis. A laser range-finding means is accommodated in the main case. Measured distance displaying means comprises LCD means for displaying a distance measured by the laser range-finding means. The LCD means is placed at a part off a light path formed by the first observation optical system and a displaying optical system is provided for projecting the distance displayed by the LCD means on a reticle so that the distance is shown at a rim of the visual field.

Yanagisawa discloses a binocular comprising a binocular body with one or a pair of objective lens-barrel units, a pair of eyepiece lens-barrels, and a pair of image-erecting chambers. The image-erecting chambers have prism units for optically connecting the optical axes of the objective lens-barrel units to respective optical axes of the eyepiece lens-barrel units. The optical axes of the eyepiece lens-barrel units are movable angularly toward and away from each other about the optical axes of the objective lens-barrel units. As the Examiner notes, Yanagisawa does not teach or suggest the claimed laser range-finding means and/or measured distance displaying means of claim 1. However, the Examiner relies upon WO '125 for such teaching. WO '125, as best understood, discloses an infra-red rangefinder in which the trajectory of the infra-red rays of the rangefinder is guided by the same optical elements which determine the trajectory of the binoculars' rays. The Examiner relies upon Heidmann for disclosing a range-finding means having an LCD means to display the distance information.

While the references cited by the Examiner may contain one or more individual components of the claimed range binoculars of the invention, none of these cited references teaches or suggests the combined elements set forth in claim 1. Specifically, none of the references, either alone or in combination, fairly teaches or suggests the claimed range binoculars with a main case accommodating the first and second observation optical systems with an attached case accommodating the second ocular optical system in which the attached case turns round the second objective optical axis, and further including the laser range-

finding means and specifically disclosed LCD means for displaying the distance measured by the laser range-finding means. Additionally, none of the references teaches or suggests the limitation of claim 1 of a displaying optical system for projecting the distance displayed by the LCD means on a reticle so that the distance is shown at a rim of the visual field. This latter limitation is not taught in any of the cited references and, therefore, could not be present in the combination of the references.

Conclusion

Applicant believes claims 1-7, as amended, are patentable over the cited prior art and are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of claims 1-7 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Annotated Sheet Showing Change

Fig. 1